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BANNER & WITCOFF

001/009

10 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 3000
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606

TEL: 312.715.1000
FAX: 312.715.1234
www.bannerwitcoff.com

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TO: Commissioner for Patents	FROM: Scott A. Burow
COMPANY: United States Patent and Trademark Office	DATE: November 30, 2004
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YOUR REFERENCE NO.: Application Serial No.: 10/033,818	OUR REFERENCE (C/M) NO.: Atty Docket No.: 005127.00035
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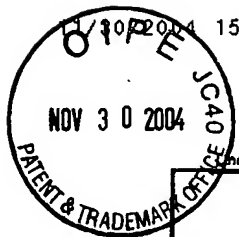
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Serial No.: 10/033,818

Confirmation No.: 8443

Inventor: Turner

Title: Device and Method for Securing Apparel to Protective Equipment

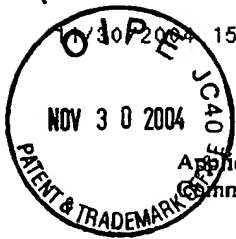
Fee Transmittal (1 page) in duplicate

Part B- Fee(s) Transmittal (1 page) in duplicate

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance (3 pages)

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Application No.: 10/033,818

Comments on Examiner's Statement for Reasons for Allowance

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Turner et al.

Serial No.: 10/033,818

Filed: December 20, 2001

For: Device and Method for Securing
Apparel To Protective Equipment

Atty. Docket No.: 05127.0 1035

Group Art Unit: 3765

Examiner: Patel, Tish D.

Confirmation No.: 8443

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop: ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance and the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the Applicants submit the following comments concerning the reasons for allowance.

Claims 1-14 are novel and non-obvious over the prior art as a whole. The invention, as recited in independent Claim 1, is directed to "a device for securing apparel to protective equipment comprising an apparel attachment member defining a first side and a second side, the first side having an adhesive coating for securing the attachment member to the protective equipment, and the second side having a plurality of hooks for removably securing the apparel attachment member to a plurality of loops formed on the inside of the apparel, the apparel attachment member defining a shape that substantially conforms to the protective equipment."

The invention, as recited in independent Claim 6, is directed to "a method of securing apparel to protective equipment comprising the steps of providing an apparel attachment member defining a first side and a second side, the first side having an adhesive coating, and the second side having a plurality of hooks, securing the apparel attachment member to the protective equipment by positioning the first side of the apparel attachment member in contact with the protective equipment, and positioning the inside of the apparel in contact with the plurality of

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Comments on Examiner's Statement for Reasons for Allowance

hooks on the second side of the apparel attachment member, whereby the apparel is securely attached to the protective equipment."

The invention, as recited in independent Claim 10, is directed to "a device for securing apparel to protective equipment comprising an apparel attachment member secured to the protective equipment, the apparel attachment member including a plurality of hooks for removably securing the apparel attachment member to a plurality of loops formed on the inside of the apparel, the apparel attachment member defining a shape that conforms to the protective equipment."

The inventions described in independent claims 1, 6 and 10 are novel and non-obvious over the prior art as a whole. Similarly, the inventions described by the dependent claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art as a whole. The inventions described by the independent claims are not limited by the protective equipment on which they may be used. Indeed, the inventions may be used with all types and kinds of protective equipment where it is desirable to secure apparel thereto. Consequently, the Examiner's statement that the prior art does not teach or suggest "protective equipment adapted for the shoulder, ribs or back" is referring to the inventions recited in the dependent claims and not the independent claims. Also, the inventions described by the independent claims are not limited to the loops "being formed" on the apparel; rather, the inventions of the independent claims can be used with loops that naturally form or occur on the apparel, as supported by the specification. Finally, the inventions of the claims are not limited to "a plurality of hoops." In fact, the claims of the inventions do not make reference to "hoops"; rather, they refer to "loops" as that term is broadly understood by those skilled in the art.

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Comments on Examiner's Statement for Reasons for Allowance

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: November 30, 2004

By:



Scott A. Burow

Registration No. 42,373

Banner & Witcoff, LTD.
Ten South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Tel: (312) 463-5000
Fax: (312) 463-5001